DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to applicant's response to non final office action filed on December 17, 2009 in which claims 9-38 are presented for further examination.

In response of Applicants amendments and remarks arguments with respect to the rejection of claims 9-27 under Spiers et al (US 2003/0028731) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Marc A. Hubbard on April 9, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claim:

See Attached Exhibit A.

Reason for Allowance

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention relates to a method for controlling a data processing device. The closest prior art Spiers et al (US 2003/0028731) is directed to a block data storage within a computer network. However, Spiers, fails to anticipate or render obvious the recited features "exchanging commands between an application running on a computer and a data processing device having a processor, which is connected to the computer via an interface and appears to the computer as a data storage device with a corresponding file system to which an operating system on the computer is capable of writing files, the method comprising: storing the command in a special file; requesting the operating system of the computer to write a special file containing the device-specific command to the corresponding file system using a write operation; after the special file is received by the data processing device, executing the device specific command contained in the special file using the execution handler running on the processor of the data processing device; wherein, if the device specific command is of a predetermined type that requires an answer to be generated at the time of the next access of the special file by the operating system of the computer, the device specific demand is executed at the time of the next access of the special file by the operating system of the computer, and an answer to the executed device specific command is written in the special file prior to it being returned to the computer". These features in conjunction with all other limitations of the dependents and independent claims render claims 9-11, 13-28, 31-37, and 39 (Renumbered 1-27) allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANGELICA RUIZ whose telephone number is (571)270-3158. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., ET.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mohammad Ali can be reached on (571) 272-4105. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Mohammad Ali/ /Mohammad Ali/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2158 Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2158

Exhibit (A):

Claims 1-8 (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A method for exchanging commands between an application running on a computer and a data processing device having a processor, which is connected to the computer via an interface and appears to the computer as a data storage device with a corresponding file system to which an operating system on the computer is capable of writing files, the method comprising:

generating, using an application program on the computer, a device-specific command for execution by an execution handler running on the processor of the data processing device;

storing the command in a special file;

requesting the operating system of the computer to write a special file containing the device-specific command to the corresponding file system using a write operation; ~~and~~

after the special file is received by the data processing device, executing the device specific command contained in the special file using the execution handler running on the processor of the data processing device; wherein, if the device specific command is of a predetermined type that requires an answer to be generated at the time of the next access of the special file by the operating system of the computer, the

device specific demand is executed at the time of the next access of the special file by the operating system of the computer, and an answer to the executed device specific command is written in the special file prior to it being returned to the computer.

10. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 9, wherein the device specific command is executed by the execution handler on the data processing device only when the special file is identified by the data processing device.

11. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 9, further comprising generating with the processor of the connected data processing device an answer to the executed device specific command.

12. Cancelled.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the answer to the executed command is buffered in a volatile or non volatile memory of the connected data processing device.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 11, further comprising:

requesting with the application that operating system read the special file from the ~~the~~ connected data processing device;

receiving the read command in the connected data processing device;

storing the answer generated in the connected data processing device in the special file, which is thereby modified; and

returning the special file from the connected data processing device to the computer ~~in~~.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 14, further comprising:

receiving the returned special file by the computer;

recognizing that the special file contains an answer; and

reading the answer from the special file and further processing the answer in the application program.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the answer generated by the processor of the connected data processing device is one of a device status or an error message.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 9, wherein the special file is identified by the data processing device when the specific file is written by the operating system to a previously selected block address.

18. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 9, wherein the connected data processing device includes a mass storage device with a corresponding file system; and wherein the special file is written onto a mass storage medium of the

connected data processing device and is capable of being read from the mass storage medium of the connected data process device.

19. (Currently amended) A system for controlling a data processing device, comprising a computer with an operating system and a data processing device with a processor, which is connected to the computer via an interface and which appears to the computer as a data storage medium with a corresponding file system present at the interface, the system comprising an application program stored in the memory of the computer, the application program comprising instructions for executing on the computer for generating a device specific command, storing the command in a special file and requesting the operating system of the computer to write the special file containing the device-specific command to the corresponding file system that appears to the computer at the interface, the operating system thereby transmitting to the device the special file using a write operation of the operating system of the computer; wherein the connected data processing device is adapted to at least appear to the computer as a mass data storage medium having a file system to which the operating system is capable of writing files, receive the special file, read the device specific command from the special file after receiving the special file through the interface, and execute the device specific command, wherein, if the device specific command is of a predetermined type that requires an answer to be generated at the time of the next access of the special file by the operating system of the computer, the device specific demand is executed at the time of the next access of the special file by the operating

system of the computer and an answer to the executed device specific command is written into the special file prior to it being returned to the computer.

20. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 19, characterized in that the processor of the device is adapted for executing the device specific command only when the special file contains identification.

21. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 19, characterized in that an answer to the executed device specific command is generated by the processor of the connected data processing device.

22. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 21, wherein the computer is adapted for sending to the data processing device a read command of the operating system concerning the special file in response to a request from the application, the device having stored ~~stores~~ the answer generated in the device in the special file, whereby the special file is modified; and

wherein the connected data processing device is adapted for returning the special file to the computer in the execution of the read command of the operating system of the computer.

23. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 19, wherein the connected data processing device, to which the special file is transmitted using the write operation of the operating system, comprises no mass storage medium for use by the computer ~~device~~ for storing files.

24. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 19, characterized in that the interface of the computer is comprised of a universal serial bus (USB) interface or a SCSI interface.

25. (Previously presented) A system according to Claim 19, characterized in that the processor for executing the read device specific command is arranged in an external device.

26. (Currently amended) A data processing device for executing a device specific command generated by an application program running on a computer, the device comprising an interface for connecting to a computer, and a processor, the device being specifically adapted for

causing the device to appear as a mass storage device having a corresponding file system to an interfacing computer[[;]][[,]]

receiving a special file containing a device specific command executable by the device and not to be executed by the computer from which the special file was received, the special file being created by the application running on the computer and received by the device through the interface using a write operation of the computer's operating system that instructs the data processing device to write the file to a previously specified storage location, the device specific command in the special file in response to receiving the special file using an execution handler running on the processor of the data processing device; and-

executing the device specific command contained in the special file, wherein, if the device specific command is of a predetermined type that requires an answer to be generated at the time of the next read operation of the special file by the operating system of the computer, the device specific demand is executed at the time of the next read operation of the special file by the operating system of the computer and an answer to the executed device specific command is written into the special file prior to it being returned to the computer.

27. (Previously presented) A data processing device according to Claim 26, wherein the device comprises no mass storage medium for storing files, the device merely appear to be a mass data storage device.

28. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the special file is written by the write operation of the operating system of the computer to a predetermined block address.

29. Cancelled

30. Cancelled.

31. (Previous presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the connected data processing device does not include a data storage medium, the data processing device being further adapted for simulating to the computer a mass data storage medium but not capable of storing files written to the data processing device.

32. (Previous presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the device specific command is unknown to the operating system with respect to the connected data processing device.

33. (Previous presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the data processing device further comprises a mass data storage medium with a corresponding file system.

34. (Previous presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the device specific command is unknown to the operating system with respect to the data processing device.

35. (Previous presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the device-specific command is unknown to an operating system running on the computer with respect to the data processing device.

36. (Previous presented) The data processing device of claim 26, wherein the device further comprises a data storage medium with a corresponding file system, the data processing device being further adapted for having the data storage medium appear at the interface as a mass data storage device for storing files written to the data processing device.

37. (Previous presented) The data processing device of claim 26, wherein the device does not include a data storage medium, the data processing device being further adapted for simulating to an interfacing computer a mass data storage device

without storing in a file system files written to the data processing device in the data storage medium.

38. Cancelled

39. (New) The method according to Claim 9, wherein the processor in the data processing device writes a flag in a random access memory of the connected data processing device or in the special file if an answer to the executed command is to be generated at the next access to the file by the operating system of the computer.

/Angelica Ruiz/
Examiner, Art Unit 2158

/Mohammad Ali/
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